THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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President Droupadi Murmu pays tributes to C Rajagopalachari at Rashtrapati Bhavan. His bust replaced British architect Edwin Lutyens' statue there | PIB

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1st counter-terror policy to cut fund, arms, safe havens

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE government on Monday announced the country's first counter-terror policy, 'Prahaar', which addresses evolving threats through prevention, coordinated response and capacity building while adhering to the rule of law. The document released by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) noted that instability in India's immediate neighbourhood has often created ungoverned spaces, adding that a "few countries in the region have sometimes used terrorism as an instrument of state policy".

However, the MHA said India does not associate terrorism with any religion. "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilization," it said while emphasising that the country has always denounced terrorism "unambiguously and unequivocally" and that its policy is guided by a principled approach of 'zero tolerance' against terror.

The strategy flows from India's commitment to stand by the victims of terrorism. It is predicated on prevention of terror attacks, swift and proportionate responses, aggregation of internal capacities through a whole-of-government approach, ensuring human rights and rule-of-law-based processes, attenuating conditions that enable terrorism, aligning and shaping global efforts to counter terror, and strengthening recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

The policy envisages enhanced cooperation among agencies, periodic legal reforms and further capacity building of state counter-terror units so as to deny terrorists access to funds, weapons and safe havens, while investing in technology and partnerships to counter future threats.

Framework on global terrorism

India will keep working on a comprehensive framework on international terrorism while pursuing 'Prahaar', which aims to criminalise all terrorist acts and deny access to funds, weapons and safe havens to the terrorists, their financiers and supporters

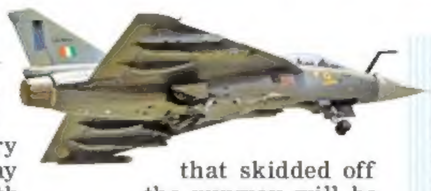
There is a need to associate legal experts at every stage of investigation, right from the registration of the first information report to its culmination in prosecution

New policy

IAF grounds its entire Tejas fleet

Launches technical review to find out how an Mk1 overshot the Guj runway during takeoff

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi



THE Indian Air Force (IAF) has grounded its entire Tejas fleet as a precautionary measure following a runway incident earlier this month, even as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday described the episode as a "minor technical incident".

According to defence sources, the IAF has initiated a comprehensive technical review across critical systems to determine the cause of the incident. There has been no official statement from the IAF so far on either the incident or the temporary grounding.

It also remains unclear whether the airframe of the jet that skidded off the runway will be written off.

It is reliably learnt that the grounding comes after an incident in early February at Naliya Air Base in Gujarat, where a Tejas MK1 overshot the runway during take off. Sources said the jet slid into a nearby mud patch softened by prior rainfall while still in the acceleration phase of take-off.

The pilot sustained injuries but is reported to be safe.

HAL sought to downplay it, stating that there had been no incident involving the LCA Tejas beyond a "minor technical issue" on the ground.

It further added that Tejas MK1 continues to maintain one of the world's best safety records among contemporary fighter aircraft.

However, if the crash is confirmed, this would mark the third loss involving the Tejas MK1. The first loss of a series-production jet occurred in March 2024, when a fighter crashed near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, shortly after participating in the tri-services exercise Bharat Shakti. The second incident took place in November last year at the Dubai Airshow, where Wing Commander Namansh Syal was killed while in an aerobatic display.

Tejas is a single-engine fighter jet that is designed to undertake operating in high-threat air environments. It capabilities include air defence and maritime reconnaissance.

Mk1, Mk1-A deliveries behind schedule

HAL is yet to complete delivery of the IAF's Tejas Mk-1 order. Of the 40 aircraft contracted, only 38 have been delivered so far. The delays extend to the larger Tejas Mk-1A programme as well, where deliveries of 180 aircraft are running over two years behind schedule

Today's Match
7pm: England vs Pakistan (Pallekele)

K'taka's BT industry touches $39b, makes up 10% of GSDP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA biotechnology sector's economy has hit $39.2 billion (Rs 3.25 lakh crore), accounting for over 10% of the gross state domestic product (GSDP), according to the Karnataka BioEconomy Report 2025, released on Monday.

According to the report, Karnataka's bioeconomy, which accounts for around 21% of the country's output, expanded from $31 billion in 2023, reflecting a cumulative growth of 26.5%. It is now adding nearly $10 billion every quarter to GSDP. The report also mentions that propelled by biologics, biosimilars, vaccines and diagnostics, biopharma is the leading contributor with around $16.44 billion.

The study lists industrial biotechnology as the fastest-growing segment – with a contribution of around $11.46 billion – led by fermentation-based industries, biofuels, enzymes and sustainable materials.

CONTINUED ON P7

EXPRESS READ

Will fight till MGNREGA restored: Siddaramaiah

C'BALLAPUR: CM Siddaramaiah said VB-G RAM G Act was passed in Parliament without adequate debate. At a protest in Chikkaballapur, he vowed a sustained protest until MGNREGA is restored P4

GPS survey shows ₹318cr property tax evasion

BENGALURU: Greater Bengaluru Authority has found ₹318cr tax evasion from 13,600 properties during Ph II of GPS-based door-to-door reassessment drive. The process to recover ₹688cr from 23,600 property owners begin P2

Don warns of more tariffs for those 'playing games'

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

JUST days after the US Supreme Court struck down the tariff regime imposed by his administration, US President Donald Trump threatened to levy significantly higher tariffs, or take tougher measures, against countries that try to "play games" with the ruling.

In a social media post on Monday, Trump said, "Any country that wants to 'play games' with the ridiculous Supreme Court decision, especially those that have 'Ripped Off' the USA for years, and even decades, will be met with a much higher tariff, and worse, than that which they just recently agreed to."

The remarks came after the European Parliament decided on Monday to postpone for a second time a vote on the European Union's trade deal with the US.

The delay follows Trump's imposition of a new blanket 15% import tariff and discussions within the EU on slowing the ratification process of the proposed trade pact.

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